<u>**Amendment to the Claims:**</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

<u>**Listing of Claims:**</u>

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

generating, on a ~~first~~ <u>local</u> computer, ~~a first~~ <u>an install</u> license for software installed on the ~~first~~ <u>local</u> computer, wherein the ~~first~~ <u>install</u> license is generated by the ~~first~~ <u>local</u> computer in response to the software being installed;

obtaining, by the ~~first~~ <u>local</u> computer, from a ~~second~~ <u>remote</u> computer a ~~second~~ <u>trial</u> license for the installed software, wherein the ~~second~~ <u>trial</u> license is generated by the ~~second~~ <u>remote</u> computer;

determining, by the ~~first~~ <u>local</u> computer, whether the ~~second~~ <u>trial</u> license is authentic; and

replacing, if the ~~second~~ <u>trial</u> license is authentic, the ~~first~~ <u>install</u> license with the ~~second~~ <u>trial</u> license.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein replacing, if the ~~second~~ <u>trial</u> license is authentic, the ~~first~~ <u>install</u> license with the ~~second~~ <u>trial</u> license comprises:

setting, by the ~~first~~ <u>local</u> computer, a first identifier to associate the ~~first~~ <u>install</u> license with the ~~first~~ <u>local</u> computer;

determining whether the first identifier matches a second identifier of the ~~second~~ <u>trial</u> license;

validating a digital signature of the ~~second~~ **trial** license;

determining, if the first identifier matches the second identifier and the digital

signature is valid, that the ~~second~~ **trial** license is authentic; and

replacing, as a result of determining that the ~~second~~ **trial** license is authentic, the

~~first~~ **install** license with the ~~second~~ **trial** license.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein obtaining from the

~~second~~ **remote** computer the ~~second~~ **trial** license further comprises:

connecting to the ~~second~~ **remote** computer,

providing the ~~second~~ **remote** computer with at least a portion of the ~~first~~ **install**

license; and

exchanging the ~~first~~ **install** license for the ~~second~~ **trial** license.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein connecting to the

~~second~~ **remote** computer comprises connecting to the ~~second~~ **remote** computer via a

communications network.

6.   (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the communications network

is the internet.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein exchanging the ~~first~~ install license for the ~~second~~ trial license includes formatting data from the ~~first~~ install license according to a set of text processing rules and transmitting the formatted data using a text transfer protocol.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising verifying whether the replaced license is valid, including determining whether the replaced license has expired.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, further comprising digitally signing the ~~first~~ install and ~~second~~ trial licenses, wherein digitally signing the ~~first~~ install and ~~second~~ trial licenses includes applying a message digest algorithm to a portion of the license not including a length of the license or the digital signature, resulting in a message digest, the message digest being further encrypted with a binary key extracted from the unique identifier.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine-accessible medium including thereon sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause an electronic system to:

generating, on a ~~first~~ **local** computer, a ~~first~~ **install** license for software installed on the ~~first~~ **local** computer, wherein the ~~first~~ **install** license is generated by the ~~first~~ **local** computer in response to the software being installed;

obtaining, by the ~~first~~ **local** computer, from a ~~second~~ **remote** computer a ~~second~~ **trial** license for the installed software, wherein the ~~second~~ **trial** license is generated by the ~~second~~ **remote** computer;

determining, by the ~~first~~ **local** computer, whether the ~~second~~ **trial** license is authentic; and

replacing, if the ~~second~~ **trial** license is authentic, the ~~first~~ **install** license with the ~~second~~ **trial** license.

14. – 24. (Canceled)

25.   (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to replace, if the ~~second~~ **trial** license is authentic, the ~~second~~ **trial** license with the ~~first~~ **install** license comprises sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to:

set, by the ~~first~~ **local** computer, a first identifier to associate the ~~first~~ **install** license with the ~~first~~ **local** computer;

determine whether the first identifier matches a second identifier of the ~~second~~ **trial** license;

validate a digital signature of the ~~second~~ **trial** license;

determine, if the first identifier matches the second identifier and the digital signature is valid, that the ~~second~~ **trial** license is authentic; and

replace, as a result of determining that the ~~second~~ **trial** license is authentic, the ~~first~~ **install** license with the ~~second~~ **trial** license.

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 13, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to obtain, by the ~~first~~ **local** computer, from the ~~second~~ **remote** computer the ~~second~~ **trial** license further comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to:

connect to the ~~second~~ **remote** computer;

provide the ~~second~~ **remote** computer with at least a portion of the ~~first~~ **install** license; and

exchange the ~~first~~ **install** license for the ~~second~~ **trial** license.

28.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 27, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to connect to the ~~second~~ **remote** computer comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed,

cause the electronic system to connect to the ~~second~~ **remote** computer via a communications network.

29.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 28, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to connect to the ~~second~~ **remote** computer via the communications network comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to connect to the ~~second~~ **remote** computer via the internet.

30.   (Canceled)

31.   (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of Claim 13, wherein the machine-accessible medium further comprises sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to verify whether the replaced license is valid, including determining whether the replaced license has expired.

32.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 26 further comprising sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to digitally sign the ~~first~~ **install** and ~~second~~ **trial** licenses, wherein the sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to digitally sign the ~~first~~ **install** and ~~second~~ **trial** licenses include sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to apply a message digest algorithm to a portion of the license not including a length of the license or the digital signature, resulting in a message digest,

the message digest being further encrypted with a binary key extracted from the unique

identifier.

33.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

selectively refreshing the ~~second~~ **trial** license prior to expiration of a

predetermined period of time.

34.   (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the

machine-accessible medium further comprises sequences of instructions that, when

executed, cause the electronic system to selectively refresh the ~~second~~ **trial** license prior

to expiration of a predetermined period of time.